A BREAKFAST DISH.

[Harriet Prescott Spofford in Harper's Bazaar. "And it was the most beautiful stone that "And it was the most beautiful stone that I ever saw in a finger ring. None of those paltry things you can't wear till candle-light on account of the yellow there is in them. So white, so clear, so brilliant, pellucid as a water-drop and sparkling as a star! It was all but big enough, too, to have a name of its own, like those that the royal diamonds have—'Star of The Four Points of the Compass,' Light of the Wor 'So Come,' 'Glory of the Middle of the Earla,' 'Mother of the Moon.' Why under the sun," cried of the Moon.' Why under the sun," cried Mr. Torrance, the pretty creature in a bewitching gown, pouring coffee for her husband, the little butler having been dis-

husband, the little butler having been dismissed by Mr. Torrence—in fear of the wrath to come, perhaps—"shoulin't our diamonds have names as well as those of kings and queen and—"
"Yours ought to have one," said her husband, quietly. "It would be suitable to call now; it's in the vocative, you know."
"Well, I must say I don't believe any man was ever so undisturbed by the loss of such a thing as that. Archibald, that stone was worth a thousand dollars."

worth a thousand dollars."
"Really I ought to be aware of the fact,

dear, if any one is. You have offered to sell it and procure the sum for my necessities every time I have been hard up since we married. And if I have Mildred ar rested for this theft, as you suggest, it will cost another thousand before we are done with it. For she would certainly be proved innocent, and then a libel suit would be the next thing in order."
"But, Archy, Mildred can't be proved in-

nocent. How can she be, when I know she took it? And there was no one else to take it." And Mrs. Torrance paused with sus-pended cup, her great wondering eye-searching space for a reply. "If ever any thing lay in a straight line, it is the evidence sgainst that girl," she continued. "The other day when the ring fell on the floor she was in the room, and she asked me what stone like that was worth, and then gave such a sigh that I said, 'I suppose you think it's wrong for me to wear \$1,000 on my fluger?' And she said, 'I wasn't thinking of the ring: I was only thinking that \$1,000 can do a great deal of good.' The minx! 'Well,' I said. 'it does a great deal of good—in looking pretty on my hand.' 'Indeed it does look beautifully there,' said sho—she's very particular about her adverbs; I wish she was about her catechism—but a good deed done by a hand is its most beautiful jewel, to my thinking.' Just hear that! To her mi-tress! Are you through! Why, I've only just begun."

"She is quite a missionary," said Mr. Tor-rance, picking up his newspaper. "And the worst of it is, she is right."

"Now, Archibald, don't, for mercy's sake go to reading!" said his wife. "I do think the morning news might wait for once. It's

nothing but dynamiters blowing up the British empire, and Arabs making mummies of the British army-all abstractions; but my ring is something positive, tangible

"I wish it were," said Mr. Torrance. "And then I could be allowed—" But as he glanced at the lovely creature opposite, the prayer on their silvery strength, and lead with her reproachful brown eyes in which stood two tears as big as the diamond she had lost, her color going and coming with her breath, as you might say, and the rosecolored ribbons of her morning cap all a-flutter with her earnestness, he folded his

paper, and said, "Well, my dear!"
"Well, my dear!" mimickéd Mrs. Torrance, "I should say it's anything but when a man hears of a servant insultingactually insulting—his [wife, and says she's in the right."

"Now, Janet, I will submit it to your own judgment if that's a fair interpretation."
"You needn't do anything of the sort. It isn't fair to suppose I have any judgment, if what I say concerning Mildred—perfectly ridiculous cognomen. Who ever heard of Mildred for a servant's name?"

Why not Mildred!" "Why not Gwendoline, then, or Frede-gonde, or Thusnelda! How would it seem to be telling Gladys to brush the dust off my shoes? And Mildred is just as bad, If I had my way, all the cooks should be Noras, and all the second girls should be Ellens, and if they came from England, then they should be Elizas and Mary Anns, and it wouldn't sound as if you were taking a liberty with your superiors when your own name is just plain Jane. I ought to have been Resamond myself, you know," said Mrs. Torrance, absently, twirling the grounds in her cup, "or Katherine, or Eloise, or something. But I am sure I have trouble enough with these people without being troubled with their names. A d I don't believe her name is Mildred, anyway. I believe it's just plain Martha, and she took the Mildred. It she took my diamond she wouldn't stop at taking a name. Or maybe it was just Milly-" And here Mrs. Torrance paused, not for breath, but in amazement to see her husband's eyes twinkle, and the himself lie back in his chair, as he pushed his plate away, with a laugh he could repress no longer.

"If she took your diamond. Well, my darling, I am glad you have arrived at the diamond once more. I began to think it had been lost again. But don't tell me about the inconsequence of a woman's mind. Its workings are labyrinthine, but the thought always comes out at the place it went in. Now, let us be business-like if we can, Janet. What makes you think this pretty Mildred of ours took the dia-

"Pretty Mildred! Well, perhaps because she is pretty," said Mrs. Torrance, looking like a satirical sparrow.
"Not at all impossible," said her busband,

"You don't mean to imply that I would denounce a person as a thief because you said she was pretty?" cried Mrs. Torrance, half rising to her feet. "I've as good a mind to leave the table as ever I had to eat. would, if the buckwheat cakes had come

"My dear child!" "You treat me exactly as if I were a child," cried the outraged wife. "What do I care whether my maid is pretty or not? Being pretty, apparently, doesn't keep her hands from picking and stealing. I know she stole my diamond just as well as if I had

seen her do it." "But what would she do with it?" "What a question! As if that sort of per-son didn't know where to dispose of things easily and take care of the proceeds! I

wonder if Patricia is never going to send those cakes up-"
"How in the world did our cook come to

"I called her so myself when she came. Her own name was Hannab, a combination of sounds I utterly detest, and wasn't going

to have ringh in my ears all the time. And she is so tall and erect she justifies Patricia. Don't you think so?"

"All right," said Mr. Torrance, thinking it be t to make no reference to the Noras of a fow minutes since. "But we were speaking

"I did not think very well of Mildred, I will confess, before this," said Mrs. Torrance, with judicial calmness. "She is elucoting ber sister, who has a voice—such a voice!—for a church singer, when she will have a salary that will be wealth to them and give some lessons besides. And she was wrapped up in her. And I took an interest wrapped up in her. And I took an interest in them myself, and gave her a silk dress to make over, and got a new cloak that I really didn't need, so as to give her my old one (and I saw she had the good taste to take off some of the trimming), and lots of my old music. And out of her own wages Mildred has to hire a room and a piano and pay for her lesson, somebody gives her her board till she can pay the debt, and it takes every cent Mildred earns; and you see it is quite natural that she should look about her

to find where she can turn a penny—"
"An honest penny," said Mr. Torrance.
"A girl who is doing that for another is not one that would be likely to turn any other

"How you do love to interrupt me, Mr.
Torrance! It really seems as if you couldn't bear the sound of my voice! I was going on to say, before you took the words out of my mouth, that recently this sister of hers has been advised to take lessons of another master, who asks all creation, but is really worth it. And he says he can make her voice a fortune to her. And they have been dreadfully cast down because they couldn't do it. And now you see where the diamond comes in. If she can get for that stone anything near its value her sister Mabel can take her lessons. And her voice is delicious—just perfectly delicious!" exclaimed Mrs. Tor-

perfectly delicious!" exclaimed Mrs. Tor-rance, forgetting the diamond egain, "Mil-dred had her come here and sing to me. And I can't describe it to you. I never heard a lark or a nightingale, but a bobo-link isn't a whistle to it. A flute, a trumpet—well, it was sweet and satisfying and penetrating as the odor of some flower, and yet soft as the velvet side of the petal of the flower. Angels would sing so, may be, if there are any. And I was just carried away. I forgot all about her sister's being my maid. I cried and I laughed, and I felt as if I had found her. And now I will solemnly tell you, Archy dear-"and she bent across the pretty China service, transfixing across the pretty China service, transfixing him with her radiant eyes—"I looked at my ring, and I turned it and turned it, and I said to myself I had had the good of it ever since Grandfather De Peyster gave it to me, and everybody knew I had it, and my position was pretty well established, diamond rings or not, and when you were able to afford a real grown-up butler, you would probably get me plenty; and if I sold it now, and gave this poor dear girl the money to secure a career, what a blessing it would

to secure a career, what a blessing it would be to her, and what a joy I should be giving to the world in her, too; for of course she wouldn't be confined to a church choir in that case, and if she were, in what a heav-enly fashion could those tones of hers swim it up, up; and anybody who is the means of producing more of them, and so brings down the price of prime donne in the market, is public benefactor, to be sure, anyway; and I was just on the point of saying that I would speak to you, and if you approved, as

I knew you would, I would have \$1,000 or thereabouts for them to-day, when Mrs. Veasey happened in, and so, as I didn't want Mrs. Veasey to know anything about it, and be taking the wind all out of my sails. I just told Mabel to come again to-day and I would have something further to say to her. And so I shall!" cried Mrs. Torrance, taking breath with renewed vigor, "I shall have to tell her that her sister ha been arrested for a thief, and she may g

sing to her in prison. That's what I'll tell her, the wicked, ungrateful girl!" "Which!" said Mr. Torrance "I don't know how anybody can be so unfeeling," cried his wife. "It really seem as if you were more interested in the troubles of two beggarly girls base enough to rob your wife than in your wife's Both!"

But robbery is a very harsh term, Janet darling. darling, where carelessness may be the whole thing." "There it is again. My carelessness, not their dishonesty. When I went to the wa-h-stand I turned the ring on my finger again, and there was the stone gone."
"And how many times have I tell you

that the careless habit of washing your bands in your rings wears off infinitesimal fractions of the gold till the stones are loosened in the setting, and drop out without your being aware of it?"

"You are always so wise after the act! How do you know I wasn't going to take my rings off! You are so ready to find me at fault! But I thought at first the stone must have washed out-" "So it seems you did wash your hands with the ring on?" said the turning worm.

"Yes, I did. There! And I sent for the plumber immediately, for I knew if it had washed out it must have caught in the first trap; and he took up the pipe, but it wasn't And he said if he made a real job of it, and went down to the main something, he might find it there; but I thought that would cost more than the diamond itself-

"Wise woman," grouned Mr. Torrance.
"And so, you see, I didn't accuse Mildrei
in the first place. I searched, and took
every precaution. I didn't think of sucn a thing till I saw her stand there turning more colors than the lady in vae lebster-"You don't say that you really have ac

"Well, what if I have? I must lose my diamond that my dear grandfather gave m when I was married, and that I treasured so, and endure it all in silence for have a chance also, some little hussy's feelings will be hurt. My feelings are of no consequence a all. It isn't to be reckoned to my account that was ready to give her the diamond—and I love diamonds. I don't think there's anything so beautiful in the whole world. There's no other one thing that holds so much in so little; I don't mean money or money values. It is the concrete essence of sunshine—really, materially. Once that identical stone of mine, ages before man was made, was nothing but a flood of sunshine, married to the wet air as it reached one spot of the earth, and a wonderful tree sprung from that marriage, and flourished and flowered and fell, a great strong marve of growth that belongs to those past as me when the earth itself was but half crystal-

lized out of its gases, and that grows now nowhere. For they can't find any substance

now that can quite produce it. And that made my diamond—by slow concentration, Or else, even if it is not that, it is the very

compression of that ancient atmosphere, alcompression of that ancient atmosphere, simost all carbon, which hung over the earth
in that first mystery of chaos. And, at any
rate, it is of the purest physical perfection
known to-day, and of the simplest chemical
composition. So?

"My love, how much you know! You
take my breath away. It seems to me
wickeder to have stolen your diamond than
to steal the Kob-i-noor!"

"It is. The Bi le says so, Nathan talked to King David about the ewe lamb. And that was all the diamond I had. It would seem so to you, really, if your head clerk had stolen it, or anybody had stolen it but this pretty Mildred."

"But, Janet, you are always so positive." "How can you say so! What am I ever positive about? You wouldn't have me distrust the evidences of my senses! And if ever I saw guilt on any face—"

"There is nothing more fallible than the evidence of your senses."

"I beg your pardon. I can see as far, and bear as quickly, and taste as keenly as any one alive. And for you to begin to run down my eyes now—perhaps they're not so bright as they have been—but I never thought to hear you twitting me of growing old—in this way, all of a sudden" (trying hard to swallow her sobs)—"because you're interested—in—in my servant-maid—" "For heaven's sake, Janet, think wha

you're saying!"

"I do think what I am saying," she cried then, in a fury. "And I say, whatever the evidence of my senses may be, I have every evidence that you care nothing whatever for my feelings, and can see me robbot without lifting your voice, and—and—oh, a husband ought to love his wife, and protect ber, and take her part." And here Mrs. Janet rose hurriedly and pushed over her chair and was running from the room.

But Mr. Torrance was not to be outdone by any such sleight of foot, and had caught her in his arms before she reached the door. "And do you think," he exclaimed, "that I don't love you, you abominable little mass of contradictions? Do you suppose I won't protect you with my life itself? Do you fancy for a moment that I won't take your part, when you decide what your part is?"

"Let me go! Let me go, sir!" she exclaimed. "Or else, at any rate, let me fin! my handkerchief!" And she struggled for her handkerchief, that the kisses her husband. band gave her might not be too salt, and pulling it from her pocket, something in a great arc and stream of lustre whirled out with the violently wrenched handkerchie sailed through the air like nothing so much

as a flying rainbow, and fell at her feet.

It was the lost diamond. Mrs. Torrance stopped in the midst of her tears, blushing, dishevelled, diamonddropped herself, as pretty a sight as a res-bush in a shower, and held back her skirt-with both hands while she looked at the with both hands while she looked at the shining eye there before her on the carpet.

"The horrid thing!" she said, "The horrid, unwinking, accusing thing! It is calling me all sorts of names, I shall never want to see it again. Only think, if I had denounced that poor girl! I'm so glad Inever breathed of it to her. I remember I had on this very gown when Mrs. Veasey was in. How stupid of me! Now, I'll take this down to the damped broker's today and Mildred's to a diamond broker's today and Mildred's to the study of the to a diamond broker's to-day, and Mildred's Office Hours: 9 to 10 A. M.
Mabel shall have her \$1,000 worth of lessons. 7 to 8 P. M. dare say she'll sing at our parties bye and bye. She'll be our particular prima donna. And by that time I shall have improve-Mildred into a companion. Oh, I think you would despise such a ridiculous, wicked little wife as I am!" she cried, turning to her

husband. "You cught to have married a saint. What a good man you are, Archy!"
"My dear," said Mr. Archy, "life with any other woman who didn't arrange these little circuses for my morning entertainment would be too stale, flat and unprofitable to endure. I should run away from the saint, and take to the flying trapeze and you."

The Berry Business in New York. [New York Cor. Cincinnati Enquirer.] The strawberry season is now over, but other fruits are coming in to supply the va-cancy. No place in the world is so well supplied with small fruit as New York, and ou strawberry field is unusually extended. In January, for instance, the Fiorida crop-comes in. It is, of course, very dear, but there are enough consumers even at 50 cents a basket to make it a paying business. Next are the South Carolina berries, which are two weeks later, and then in another fortnight we get the North Carolinas, which are in due time followed by the Virginias. The latter hold on until about the 1st of April, when the Delaware crop is ready, and these

and the New Jerseys keep the market full until the Hudson river fruit makes its appearance, and this is the cheap season. After this prices advance, and the last point of supply is Oswego, whose crop has just been all sold. Strawberry amateurs can thus, if they have money enough, be entertained with the delicious fruit during six months of the year. Ra pberries follow strawberries in rich profusion, being a leading New Jersey product. Then we shall have blackberries of which a large supply is promised, together with currants and gooseberries. Upon the whole, New York is as well supplied with such fruit as any

city in the world. Deal rs in small fruits are a very peculiar people. They are accustomed to take risks as much as a Wall street speculator. One day they will make and another day they lose. One day they may double their money and the next they may have to almost give away their stock. The sale of berries depends much on their condition, and this is affected by the weather or by delays in arrival. So many contingencies indeed continually occur that there is an incessant risk from the beginning to the end of the season. It is estimated that 1,000,000 baskets of strawberries are brought hither every season, and no doubt these figures are below the mark. New York is an insatiable devourer of everything that is good, and when prices are low enough then the masses

Poorly Informed in One Respect.

[Chicago Ledger.] The member from Calabash rose with his usual majestic dignity, gazed about him sternly for a moment o inspire awe, as was his wont, and then, bending his gaze with piercing fixe-iness upon the small man from Blossom county, he said, in a voice of deep solemnity, with a long pause after each ut-

terance:
"I know no north—no south—ne east—no The member with hayseed in his hair was

on his feet in an instant, and shouted back, in reply to what he supposed had been adressed specially to him:
"Then I'll be durned if you ain't all-fired poor in geog'aphy!"

Tatting is coming into fashion again to trim collars, cuffs, aprons, underwear, etc. Quantities of red appears in new millinery.

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